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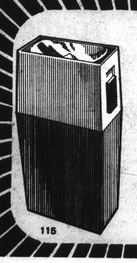

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A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

VOLUME 86 - NUMBER 32 | APPOMATTOX, (VA.) - TIMES-VIRGINIAN - AUGUST 11, 1977 | SINGLE COPY PRICE 15c

Father Darkleaf

BY CALVIN ROBINSON

There are over 130 days left in '77, and let us hope they will not all be as hot and dry as we have had recently. This morning I saw a bit of red in what had been planned as a garden, and it was a tiny red pepper, not much larger than a cherry. It has been about six weeks since I used the lawnmower. I believe in saving gas and energy, but would like to have some grass to cut. Currently Arizona is one of our fastest growing states, but I remember that when I was out there years ago it was dry. So dry that writer Oren Arnold claimed that cows were so thin they branded'em three at a time by putting carbon paper between them. Locally, this has been a great season for fans and air conditioning, and Vepco has kept the juice available. Always a bright side...most of our roads are hard-surfaced and dust in no great problem. If candidates for the ACHS football team show up overweight, will not take long to lose the weight in a few hot weather scrimmages.

* * *

All was quiet on Martha Street over the week-end, but I kept hearing the fire trucks and Rescue Squad ambulances answering a rash of calls. These services are tops. Give them the right of way. Curiosity makes me wonder where they are going, but common sense forbids me trying to find out.

* * *

A few mornings ago I found a pecan on my front lawn. The nearest pecan tree is some distance away, but maybe some squirrel found the ground too hard and dry to dig a hole and just gave up on his savings project.

* * *

A friend brought me half a watermelon, locally grown, and it was great. Saved some of the seed.

* * *

A news story from Sutallee, Georgia says that a farmer there claims that blackbirds and crows do not bother corn planted on a Wednesday. Says he has tried it for seven seasons. Plant on Tuesday and it is for the birds, but on Wednesday it is for the farmer. No explanation available.

* * *

My crepe myrtles are in full bloom. There is always something on the bright side.

* * *

A drug store chain (no outlet here) advertises that it filled its first prescription in 1905 and since has filled two hundred and fifty million. It is also claimed that the first regular movie house opened its doors in 1905. (They could also have added that it was the year I was born).

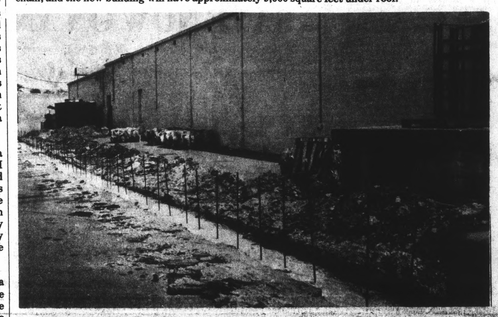
* * *

I have a valued volume in my modest library, called "The Book Nobody Knows." It was written by a layman, Bruce Barten, in 1926 and I have read it many times, the latest, all 306 pages, at one sitting, with a lot of notetaking. The book referred to is The Bible. Strange that a book present in virtually every home, taught in so many churches and read so faithfully by devout people, translated into so many languages and accepted as the greatest book ever written, should still be mastered by so few. Offhand, can you name the original twelve disciples? Who was the one woman the Bible called Great? When and by whom was The Bible divided into chapters and verses? There are many such questions. Bible study is a never ending pursuit of truth and guidance. I prefer to read it a book at a time, rather than skipping about, but the important thing is to read it...and believe. Many of our churches are having or have had Vacation Bible Schools and that is good. But do not take a vacation from reading.

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya next week.

CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY AT Triangle Plaza Shopping Center for a new building to house the present REVCO store. Additional space was needed by the local store of the REVCO chain, and the new building will have approximately 9,000 square feet under roof.



IN ORDER TO SERVE THEIR CUSTOMERS MORE EFFICIENTLY, Kings Supermarket at Triangle Plaza Shopping Center is adding approximately 3,000 square feet to the back of their store for storage space. When complete, the present shopping area can then be enlarged.

School Board Discusses Pupil Attendance And Discipline

The Appomattox County School Board met in regular session on Friday, August 5. Among the number of items on the agenda, a discussion of pupil attendance and discipline received priority attention.

During the past school session among many concerns of the school board and school employees were the irregular attendance of some students and the habitual violators of school rules and regulations. These problems existed primarily at Appomattox County High School and Appomattox Middle School.

There is a small percentage of students who fall into these two categories. However, their actions have an adverse effect on other students, require considerable time of the administration and teachers and deprive the students of the opportunities of an education.

In cooperation with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Service Unit and the Social Services Department, the School Board has directed administrative personnel to make every feasible effort to correct the problems. The School Board is willing to conduct hearings for the offenders and their parents in an attempt to find a solution to problems.

The first step in dealing with attendance and discipline will be a systematic monitoring system. If a problem seems to be developing with a student, his parents will be notified and a conference requested. If the problem continues without improvement, officials of the J and D court and/or the Social Services Department will be requested. It is anticipated that many of the problems will be corrected at the school level with the cooperation of the parents and school officials. However, if the problems are not resolved, the school principal will recommend that the student and his parents meet with the School Board to discuss the problems and to seek a solution.

Regular attendance and acceptable conduct and behavior will be emphasized throughout the school year. Parents will be involved and their ideas and cooperation solicited as efforts are made to prevent problems from developing in these areas.

Bid on Fleet Insurance

A number of companies were invited to submit bids on fleet

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SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET AUGUST 18th

The Special Education Advisory Council will meet on August 18 at 1 p.m. at the Appomattox County School Board Annex. This group, which is appointed by the School Board, meets four times annually for the purpose of reviewing existing programs for the handicapped,discussing current issues affecting services, making recommendations for programs changes and improvements, and assisting in the dissemination of information to the public.

Members of the committee are Mr. Roland Murphy, Mrs. Brenda Richardson, Mrs. Teresa Naminek, Mrs. Alice Matthews, Mr. Lloyd Vaughan, Mrs. Hezteine Foster, Miss Margaret Dickerson, Mrs. Ruth Webb, and Mr. Robert Carter.

Information about services to the handicapped is available from the School Board Office.

Drought Assistance Available Through FmHA

Appomattox and Campbell Counties have been designated disaster areas due to the 1977 summer drought.This designation makes resident farmers of these two counties eligible to apply for emergency loans for production losses through the Appomattox County Office of the Farmers Home Administration.

Qualified applicants can request loans for actual losses to 5 percent interest rate for up to seven (7) years, as well as annual operating loans at the prevailing interest rate which is now 8% per annum. For further information contact your local FmHA office. Apply by 9/30/77.

THE MARCHING BAND NEEDS ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

The Raider Marching Band needs additional members. Any student who will be in grades 8 - 12 and has one year of band instrument experience can qualify for band membership. Students who will not be enrolled in band class during the upcoming school term may also become members. The band will be rehearsing daily in the high school music room and any interested students may participate in these rehearsals and obtain a schedule of future ones. If you have had one year of band instrument experience, please come out and support the Raider effort this season.

Lions Club To Meet Tonight

The Appomattox LionsClub will meet tonight, Thursday, at Maudes Restaurant at 6:45 p.m.

An Internal Revenue Service film, "Why Me, Tom Krolik?", which explains taxpayers' rights and responsibilities will be shown during the program time.

This 27½ minute color film follows fictional taxpayer Tom Krolik through a simulated IRS audit and subsequent appeal of the examiner's findings.

The film features as narrator veteran actor James Whitmore, who was nominated for an Academy Award for his portrayal of President Harry S. Truman in "Give 'Em Hell, Harry!" While observing Krolik as he goes through the audit and appeal process, Whitmore interviews IRS employees who answer his questions extemporaneously.

The audience learns from the interview how tax returns are processed and selected for audit, and of the IRS approach to collecting delinquent taxes.

Each member of the Lions Club will want to be present for the showing of this film. It will be very interesting and informative.

CROSS COUNTRY PRACTICE TO GET UNDERWAY

Cross Country practice, for boys and girls, will begin on Monday evening, August 15, at 7:00 at the Appomattox County High School. Participants will meet at the entrance to the gym. Everyone participating must have had a high school physical.

$218,454 Awarded BREMS

The Blue Ridge Emergency Medical Services Council has been awarded $218,454 from HEW'S division of emergency medical services to assist area EMS agencies and facilities in upgrading the EMS system in planning district II.

The grants are awarded on a highly competitive basis throughout the country. In Virginia, ten regions applied for grants, and six were funded, for a total of $1,177,450. The state was one of the most heavily funded in the nation.

The BREMS Council, a 48 member regional group with representatives from rescue squads, local government, fire and rescue agencies, hospitals, health planners, and physicians formulated the improvements package 2 years ago. Legislative problems delayed any funding throughout 1976, and the council's small office was kept open through the help of both local government and the private sector. This expression of community support played a heavy part in the funding agency's decision to fund Blue Ridge, council coordinator Betsy Rowbottom believes. "Nobody ever wants to support an office, but because enough people believed we could make a significant contribution to the area, they helped us hang on. Now it's going to pay off for them."

The grant includes training

cont'd on page 14

Whiting Oil Company Purchases Triangle Plaza Gasoline Operation

Whiting Oil Company announces the purchase of the "Major Gasoline at Discount Prices" outlet located in Triangle Plaza Shopping Center, Appomattox. Whiting purchased the facility from Research Fuels, Inc., of Houston, Texas.

According to Whiting's President, Terry M. Phelps, the outlet will be open 7 days each week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and will offer Citgo gasoline at discount prices. The outlet accepts Citgo, Master Charge and Union 76 credit cards.

Whiting Oil Company, established in Clifton Forge in June 1926, is one of Virginia's largest independent petroleum distributors handling fuel oil, gasoline and lubricants in Pulaski, Christiansburg, Roanoke, Buchanan, Clifton Forge, Lexington, Staunton, Charlottesville, Culpeper, Warrenton, Fredericksburg and Richmond.

Whiting is pleased to expand into Appomattox County and according to Phelps "We will always offer the finest quality gasoline at the lowest price in the area".

Mr. Tom Noble continues as Manager and invites everyone to visit him at the "Gas and Go" facility.

Public School Opening Set August 29 In County

Appomattox County Public Schools will open on Monday, August 29th for the 1977-78 session.

Information on student fees, registration and opening day procedures is provided to assist parents and students in their plans for another school session.

STUDENT FEES - All schools will open on August 25 and 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at which time parents may come to the schools to pay fees. Fees approved by the Appomattox County School Board are as follows:

Grades K - 6: weekly reader, $1.10; accident insurance, $4.50 materials fee, $4.50; textbook rental, $9.00 K-2 and $10.00 for 3 - 6.

Grades 7 - 8: FFA 7th grade, $3.50; FFA 8th Grade, $4.50; FHA, $2.75; towel service, $3.50; band supply, $3.00; physical education uniforms, girls - $6.50, boys - $3.50; materials fee, $4.00; accident insurance, $4.50; textbook rental, $10.00.

Grades 9 - 12: textbook rental, $3.50 per subject; library and supply fee, $1.50; SCA, $1.00; class fees, $1.00; accident insurance, $4.50; art, $1.50; band supply, $4.00; band instrument rental, $10.00; distributive education, $5.00; Vo-Ag, $5.00; home economics, $4.00; physical education supply, $2.00; physical education uniforms, girls, $8.00, boys, $5.00; towel service, $3.50; typing supplies, $3.50; clerical-steno supplies, $3.50; each trade and industrial class, $5.00; chemistry lab book, $5.00.

OPENING DAY PROCEDURES - Mr. Donald Armentrout, Appomattox County High School Principal, requests students to check the local paper for homeroom assignments. On August 29, students shall report to the cafeteria. At that time student guides will assist you in finding your homeroom. Those students who do not know their homeroom assignment will receive this information in the cafeteria. Once students have reported to assigned homerooms, teachers will provide student schedules. Students who drive to school are asked to park on the north parking lot.

According to Mrs. Hesteine Foster, Appomattox Middle School Principal, students will go to the cafeteria upon arrival at school. The SCA will provide guides to help students locate the cafeteria and homerooms. Homeroom rolls will be posted on classroom doors. Students will receive their class schedules from their homeroom teachers.

The SCA will provide guided tours of the school building to all seventh graders on Thursday August 25 and Friday, August 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. On these days all students are urged to pay their fees and pick up their class schedule and homeroom assignments.

Mrs. Barbara Waddell, Pamplin Elementary School Principal, states that all kindergarten students will be met at the buses by adults and will be directed to their classrooms. Parents are requested to see that name tag showing child's name and bus number be pinned to each kindergarten student.

The principal at Appomattox Elementary School, Mr. Robert Williamson, has arranged for students, upon arrival at the elementary school, to be greeted by teachers, parent volunteers, and student guides. These persons will place a name tag on each student with the number of the student's bus. They will also direct each student to his respective homeroom. Class rolls will be posted on the doors of homeroom teachers.

Mrs. Patricia Torrence, Appomattox Primary School Principal, states that teacher aides and parent volunteers will meet students as they arrive on buses, pin the bus number on each student & direct the students to their respective classrooms. Parents are requested to pin the name on the dress or shirt of each student to help with identification.

Parents are requested to send their children to school on the bus the first day, especially primary and elementary pupils. This will enable the teachers to direct the pupils to the correct bus in the afternoon for the return trip home.

Parents can expect their children to bring home certain forms which you are requested to fill out and return to the school. It is necessary to have this information on file in the school office for each pupil.

Parents who have moved into the county during the summer who have children who will attend school this fall should go to the appropriate school or schools to register. The schools in the county and telephone numbers are: Pamplin Elementary School, 248-6108; Appomattox County High School, 352-7146; Appomattox Middle School, 352-8257; Appomattox Elementary School, 352-7463; and Appomattox Primary School, 352-5766.

All principals urge you to give them your cooperation regarding opening day procedures. The staffs are concerned about the safety and welfare of students as they make the trip to and from school each day, as well as the hours spent in school.

THE NATIONAL PARK WOMEN OF APPOMATTOX, an organization of all the National Park Women; employees, wives of employees, alumnae, and wives of alumni, held open house on August 8, 1977 at the historical Isbell House, now the residence of Superintendent Luis E. Garcia and family.

Beautifully prepared dishes based on receipes from the recently compiled cookbook were served for the enjoyment of guests.

Shown above are: 1st row, left to right, Mrs. Ann Vaughn, Mrs. Winnie Martin, Mrs. Ava Almond, Mr. Luis E. Garcia, Mrs Garcia, 2nd row, left to right are: Mrs. Virginia Tyler, Mrs. Phyllis Wilson, Mrs. Kitty Godsey, and Mrs. Faye Bryant.

Firemen Ask For Additional Space

Freddie Godsey and Addison Elder, members of the Appomattox Volunteer Fire Department, appeared before council at its Monday night meeting to ask for additional space to house equipment.

A new county fire truck has been purchased and is scheduled to arrive in ten or eleven months and space is needed to house this piece of equipment.

The firemen expressed a need for two new bays to be added to the present facilities, one bay to house the new truck and one to be used as a meeting room until such time as it would be needed for additional equipment.

The matter will be taken under consideration and will be discussed with the members of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors at their meeting on Friday of this week.

On a recommendation from the Water Committee, council agreed that it would not be feasible at this time for the Town of Appomattox to take Walton Place Subdivision into the town water system.

Two new sites for town wells have been approved by State geologists, it was reported to council. No action could be taken at this time.

All right-of-way for the new side walk on Route 727 has been acquired, council was told. The new walks will be put in by town employees and are scheduled to be ready prior to the opening of school on August 29th.

LOCAL FFA OFFICERS ATTENDED STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

The State Future Farmers of America Leadership Conference was held during the week of August 1st through August 5th at the FFA-FHA Camp near Smithfield.

Robert Dyess and Dale Garrett, shown above, represented Appomattox at the conference. They learned leadership qualities by attending morning classes and evening programs.

Dale was a member of the winning Parliamentary Procedure team and received a trophy.

The camp was extremely profitable and enjoyable, according to Dale Garrett who is reporter for the Appomattox FFA Chapter.